

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 13563 061925Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: POLITICAL VIEWS OF DC PARTY SECRETARY AMINOTORE FANFANI

1. DURING COURSE OF A LONG LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE WITH DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI ON DECEMBER 5, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON WHICH PRODUCED SEVERAL ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN VIEW OF FANFANI'S PREEMINANCE IN THE PARTY, TANTAMOUNT TO A CONTROLLING POSITION IN THE DC PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION.

2. COALITION SOLIDARITY: FANFANI IS REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE COMPACTNESS OF THE COALITION, DESPITE SOME VOCAL DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN MORE CLAMOROUS THAN IMPORTANT. IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF MINISTER FOR THE SOUTH, CARLO DONAT CATTIN, WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS FRACTIOUSNESS, FANFANI SAID THAT HE WAS FORCED TO SEND A NOTE TO DONAT CATTIN WITHIN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, POINTING OUT THAT MAJOR DIFFERENCES WITH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE EXPRESSED FROM WITHIN THE CABINET. DIFFERENCES CAN BE DISCUSSED FROM WITHIN PARTY CIRCLES, BUT "IF YOU WANT TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT, THEN YOU DON'T BELONG IN IT." SINCE THAT TIME DONAT CATTIN'S PERFORMANCE IN THAT REGARD HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY AS HAS, FOR THAT MATTER, THAT OF THE SOCIALISTS. FANFANI EXPECTS THAT THE PARTY SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 11TH WILL HAVE A UNIFYING EFFECT. FANFANI INTENDS TO STRESS THE POSITIVE. HE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 13563 061925Z

WILL POINT OUT THAT THE POPULAR REACTION TO THE FUEL CRISIS HAS

CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE PEOPLE ARE BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT. HE WILL URGE APPROPRIATE EXPLOITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH BACKING AND INTERNAL SOLIDARITY.

3. DC STRENGTH: FANFANI HAD MUCH TO SAY ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONAL CONDITION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AT THE TIME HE TOOK OVER IN JUNE THIS YEAR. HE DESCRIBED THE DISORGANIZATION AS INCREDIBLE. HE SPOKE OF "DISINTEGRATION" OF THE ORGANIZATION WHICH HE FOUND "PATHETIC" FOR THE LARGEST ITALIAN PARTY. HE COMPARED THE NUMBERS OF THE FULLTIME EMPLOYEES OF HIS PARTY WITH THOSE OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI), TO DEMONSTRATE THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS PROBLEM. IN ADDITION TO THE PATRONAGE POSITIONS AND OTHER JOBS AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE PCI IN EMILIA, FANFANI SAID, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE 250 PAID PARTY EMPLOYEES IN THAT ONE REGION. THE DC EMPLOYS ONLY 500 PAID PARTY EMPLOYEES IN ALL OF ITALY. FANFANI FEELS THAT THE PARTY MUST MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO AVOID LOSSES IN THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS DUE IN 1975. EVEN CLOSER AT HAND ARE THE SARDINIAN ELECTIONS DUE IN 1974. NEVERTHELESS, IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM IS HALF THE BATTLE AND FANFANI IS DETERMINED TO KNIT THE PARTY TOGETHER TO SEE THAT THE PARTY HOLDS DURING THESE ELECTORAL TESTS. (COMMENT: IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT FANFANI WOULD EMPHASIZE, AND PERHAPS EXAGGERATE FOR EMPHASIS, THE ORGANIZATIONAL WEAKNESSES AS HE SEES THEM IN THE DC PARTY. AS HE IS A STRONG AND ENERGETIC LEADER WITH FIRM IDEAS ON ORGANIZATION, WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO CONTINUE TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED UNTIL THE PARTY IS IN A CONDITION SATISFACTORY TO HIM.)

4. COMMUNIST OFFERS OF COLLABORATION: WITH REGARD TO PCI OFFER OF A "HISTORIC COMPROMISE", AS THE MOST RECENT EFFORT OF THE PCI TO INSERT ITSELF INTO THE GOVERNMENT IS CALLED, FANFANI SAID THE PARTY WILL STAND FIRMLY OPPOSED. OF COURSE THE PCI OFFERS THE "CARROT" OF COLLABORATION AND RETAINS THE "STICK" OF POTENTIAL UNION PRESSURES. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN FROM THE FALL OF THIS CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT AND FANFANI DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PCI LABOR UNION "STICK" IS CREDIBLE. FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THE PARTY IS NOT GOING TO ENTER INTO ANY COMPROMISE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

5. THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM: FANFANI BELIEVES THAT TIME IS RUNNING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 13563 061925Z

OUT AS FAR AS CONCERNS THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING NEW LEGISLATION TO MODIFY THE PRESENT DIVORCE LAW. THE REFERENDUM NEXT SPRING THUS SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE. AND WITH REGARD TO THE REFERENDUM ITSELF, FANFANI BELIEVES THAT, WIN OR LOSE, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL BE DISCOMFITED. FANFANI FORESEES MANY PROBLEMS FOR THE SOCIALISTS (PSI) IF THE DIVORCE LAW ORIGINALLY CO-SPONSORED BY A SOCIALIST (FORTUNA), IS ABROGATED. PSI UNHAPPINESS COULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR COALITION SOLIDARITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE

DIVORCE LAW IS UPHELD THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS GOING TO SUFFER A HUMILIATING LOSS OF FACE.

6. LABOR: FANFANI IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACTORY AND ZONE COUNCILS NOW BEING FORMED WHICH WILL BE DOMINATED BY THE CGIL. IF FACTORY AND ZONE COUNCILS SPEAK WITH ONLY A SINGLE VOICE, THE VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WON'T BE HEARD AT ALL. FANFANI INDICATED THAT HIS PARTY WILL MAKE ITS BEST EFFORT TO TRY TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.

7. FANFANI EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE RECOGNIZED THE SOVIET THREAT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR MID EAST OIL. DOMESTIC CRITICS OF ITALY'S MID EAST POLICIES, HOWEVER, WANT TO KNOW WHY ITALY HAS NOT STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE ARABS TO PUT ITALY IN A PREFERRED POSITION LIKE ENGLAND AND FRANCE. FANFANI SUPPORTS THE COALITION FOREIGN POLICY AS EXPRESSED BY MORO, AND HE BELIEVES ITALY TOOK THE ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE. (COMMENT: AN INTERVIEW BY FANFANI PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S PAESE SERA ADDED TO THIS POINT. IN HIS INTERVIEW FANFANI SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR ITALY TO HAVE MOVED A STRONG PRO-ARAB AMENDMENT TO THE EC STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE PREVAILED, BUT IT WOULD HAVE BECOME KNOWN TO THE ARABS AND WOULD HAVE MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. FANFANI SAID IN HIS INTERVIEW THAT ITALY CORRECTLY DECLINED TO PLAY SUCH A DISRUPTIVE ROLE.)

8. FANFANI WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY IS GOING BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IN EXPRESSING HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE SECRETARY, HE STRESSED THE DEMANDS OF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE AND THE ENERGY IT MUST REQUIRE. IT WAS TYPICAL THAT FANFANI WOULD NOTE MOST THAT QUALITY OF TIRELESSNESS FOR WHICH HE HIMSELF IS FAMOUS.

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PAGE 04 ROME 13563 061925Z

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